

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 01882 121355Z

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9910

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

D L ALVERSON DIRECTOR

NORTHWEST FISHERIES CENTER

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

2725 MONTLAKE BLVD EAST SEATTLE WASH

HARRY RIETZE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

JUNEAU ALA

UNCLAS TOKYO 1882

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, JA, UR, XP

SUBJECT: JAPAN-USSR FISHERY TALKS FAIL

PASS DIRECTOR, NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE, WASHDC

1. PRELIMINARY TALKS HELD IN MOSCOW, BEGINNING JANUARY 28, TO NEGOTIATE CATCH QUOTAS ON "LONG-TERM BASIS" AND TO SEEK AGREEMENT ON ENFORCEMENT IN ZONE B (SOUTH OF 45 DEGREES NORTH LATITUDE) FAILED. DISCUSSIONS WILL BE CONTINUED AT ANNUAL MEETING JAPAN-USSR NORTHWEST FISHERIES COMMISSION SCHEDULED CONVENE MOSCOW MARCH 4.

2. ACCORDING JAPANESE PRESS REPORTS, SOVIET UNION TOOK VERY TOUGH STAND, PORTENDING DIFFICULTY FOR UPCOMING ANNUAL COMMISSION MEETING. USSR PUSHED ESPECIALLY HARD FOR STRENGTHENING CONTROL IN ZONE B AND PROPOSED SOVIET SHIPS BE ALLOWED CON-

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 01882 121355Z

DUCT SURVEILLANCE OF JAPANESE LAND-BASED SALMON FISHERY.

JAPAN FIRMLY REJECTED PROPOSAL AND, INSTEAD, PROPOSED CONTINUATION AND STRENGTHENING OF PRESENT SYSTEM ENFORCEMENT BY JAPANESE SIDE ONLY. SUBJECT EXPECTED BECOME MAJOR ISSUE AT FORTHCOMING ANNUAL MEETING.

3. ON ISSUE FIXING CATCH QUOTAS IN ADVANCE RATHER THAN ONLY ANNUALLY AT PRESENT, THERE REPORTEDLY WERE LARGE DIFFERENCES IN VIEWS. ON SALMON, USSR DEMANDED REDUCTION IN DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CATCH OF TWO COUNTRIES AND PROPOSED (1) REDUCTION IN OFFSHORE CATCH BY 20 PERCENT FROM CATCH OF CORRESPONDING PREVIOUS YEAR, (2) MAINTENANCE OF PAST LEVELS OF INSHORE CATCH, AND (3) BY THOSE ACTIONS, ACHIEVE BALANCE IN SOVIET AND JAPANESE CATCH WITHIN PERIOD 6-8 YEARS (I.E., 3-4 CYCLES). JAPAN, ON OTHER HAND, TOOK POSITION PAST PERFORMANCES SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED AND PROPOSED (1) ESTABLISHMENT QUOTA FOR FOLLOWING YEAR (ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE) BASED ON AVERAGE CATCH OF CORRESPONDING PAST 3-YEAR PERIOD, AND (2) FIXING QUOTA FOR CURRENT SEASON WITHIN RANGE PLUS-MINUS 5 PERCENT OF TENTATIVE QUOTA AGREED TO ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE BY TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION (A) CONDITION OF RESOURCE AND (B) REDUCTION OF DIFFERENCE IN CATCH BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

4. ON CRAB ISSUE, USSR DEMANDED COMPLETE CESSATION JAPANESE CRAB FISHERY IN OKHOTSK SEA WHICH JAPAN EQUALLY FIRMLY OPPOSED. PROGRESS ALSO NOT MADE ON ESTABLISHMENT OF QUOTAS ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE FOR CRAB AND SEA SNAIL FISHERIES IN OTHER AREAS.

5. FYI. JAPANESE DELEGATION HEADED BY FUJITA, PRESIDENT, JAPAN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION, RETURNED TOKYO FEB 9. INDUSTRY ADVISERS TO MOSCOW TALKS INCLUDED, AMONG OTHERS, SEKI, NIPPON SUISAN. DELEGATION HELD DEBRIEFING FEB 12.
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